LOUIE THE RUNE SOLDIER VOL. 1

STORY RYOU MIZUNO

ART JUN SASAMEYUKI

CHARACTER DESIGNS MAMORU YOKOTA

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THE SOMEWHAT DANGEROUS SLACKER MAGICIAN

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STORY RYOU MIZUNO • ART JUN SASAMEYUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS MAMORU YOKOTA
OTHER DESIGNS and CG YASUMITSU SUETAKE

LOUIE THE
RUNE SOLDIER
VOL. 1
STORY
RYOU MIZUNO
ART
JUN SASAMEYUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS
MAMORU YOKOTA

ADVENTURE 1
THE
SOMEWHAT DANGEROUS
SLACKER MAGICIAN

HEY, YOU THERE!
GIMME AN ALE, SWEETIE-PIE.
COMING RIGHT UP, LOUIE.
WHOA--!
HEE YAH!
NOW MY BLOOD'S PUMPIN'. IT'S BEEN AWHILE...
YOU LITTLE--!!
YEARGH!
CRASH
SKUD
HA!
SLOWPOKE!
GRR...
URMPH...
WHUSH

A FIGHT!
YOU LITTLE BITCHES... WHADDYA THINK YER DOING?!
WELL, NOW! THINGS JUST GOT INTER-ESTING...

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
IT'S THAT GUY WHO GOT TOSSED OUT THE WINDOW...
BLOODY HELL!
CHIK
HEH.
LITTLE MAN,
YOU DRAW THAT SWORD AND YOU'LL LOSE YOUR LIFE.
TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH, IF NEED BE.
I'M FULLY PRE-PARED...
CHAK
YOU...
WINCE
ER...
WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF YOU!!

SNATCH
DAMN YOU!!
PUSH!
WHA?!
WHAT KINDA WOMAN CAN LIFT A FULL-GROWN MAN?
DAMN, SHE'S HUGE!
OOMPH
ALRIGHT!
gulp gulp
DO IT!
A BRAWL BETWEEN A SQUIRE AND 3 WOMEN AIN'T SOMETHIN' YOU SEE EVERY DAY!
AHHH!
NOW THIS IS ENTER-TAINMENT.

PWMFF
HM?
PWMF?
BWE-
THOP
WO-
WO-WO...
WHOA-
WHOA!
STUMBLE
YEEE?!

FWOOSH
ISN'T THAT TAKING THINGS A BIT FAR?
I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST A BRAWL!
WHOA, HOLD ON.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.
THEY'LL HAUL US IN JUST FOR WATCHING!
CRAP, WE BETTER SCRAM.
SPLASH
CHATTER
CHATTER
IT'S THE CITY GUARD !!

UM,
YOU MEAN I'M REALLY THAT FAMOUS?
NO REALLY, YOU'RE TOO KIND.
GEE, THANKS!
YOU...
SHING
GET LOST, YOU TURD! OR YOU'RE GONNA REGRET IT...
I RECOGNIZE HIM... YOU KNOW THE MASTER OF THE SORCERERS' GUILD? THAT GUY IS HIS SON.
I THINK HIS NAME IS... UH...
GIVE IT A REST, ALREADY?! THE FIGHT'S OVER!
WILL YOU...

SMACK
EEEEEK!!
THE... PLEASURE WAS MINE!
AH. A-HEH.
EH HEH HEH.
ACT OF GOD, MA'AM! COULDN'T BE AVOIDED.
blush
boi-oing

PSST
YOU BLOCKHEAD! DON'T YOU KNOW?
THAT GUY'S FAMOUS AROUND HERE.
PSST
HUH?
HE AIN'T EVER LOST A FIGHT.

WHAT A CREEP!!
HOW DARE HE.

IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
YO, WHAT'S A WIZARD LIKE HIM DOIN'...

LISTEN, DAMMIT!!
crack!
!
I'M TELLING YOU TO...
CUT THE CRAP, AND...
CHK
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS!!
BWOOSH
IT IS HIM. IT'S...
LOUIE.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

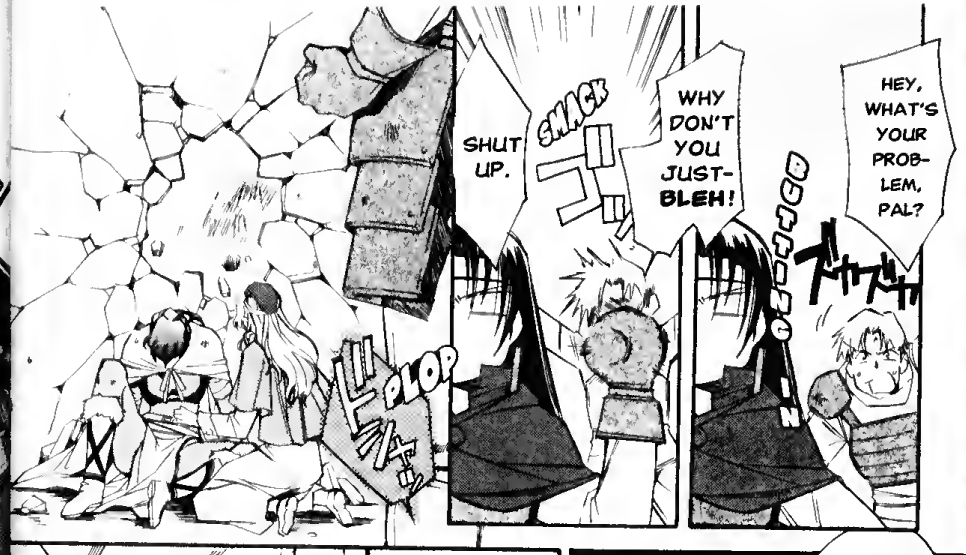
KUNK
HOP
ピョコ
ピョコ
HOP
ER... YEOWCH!
ARE YOUR LEGS MADE OF WOOD OR SOMETHING?
THIS GUY'S A FREAK!
WHAT THE HELL?

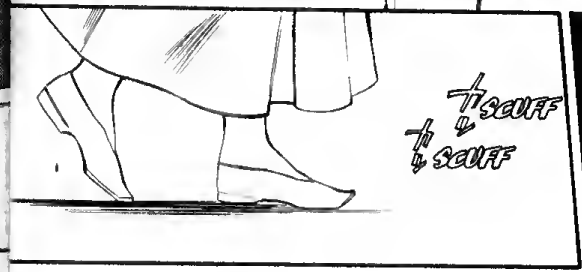
KA-BAM!
THWUMP
GENIE!
HOW COULD GENIE GET KNOCKED DOWN LIKE THAT?

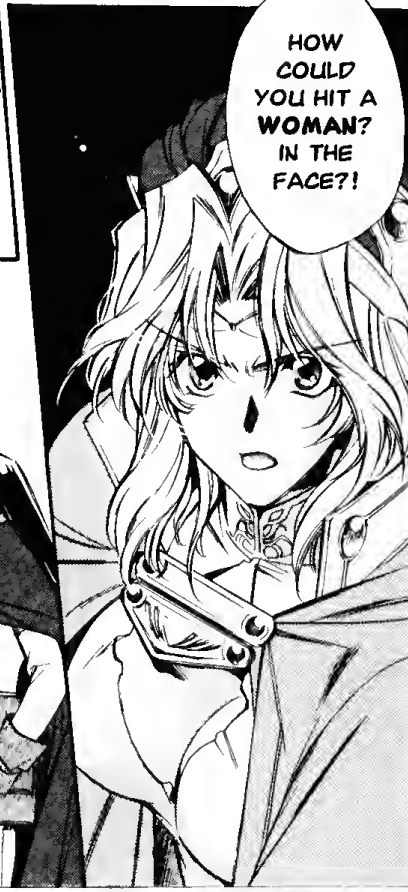
FWISH
YOU JERK!

IT'S NOT MY POLICY TO HIT WOMEN, BUT...
YOUR FRIEND WAS A DIFFERENT STORY.
PULL
UH...

FWUMP
!
THE GUARDS ARE COMING...
THIS FIGHT'S OVER WITH, SO GO!
YOU'D BETTER RUN.


SHUT UP.
SMACK
WHY DON'T YOU JUST- BLEH!
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR PROB- LEM, PAL?
PLOP


SCUFF
SCUFF


HOW COULD YOU HIT A WOMAN? IN THE FACE?!

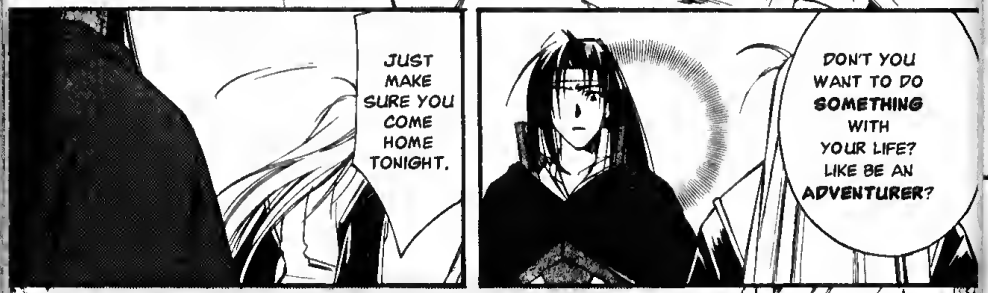
SQUISH
FLASH

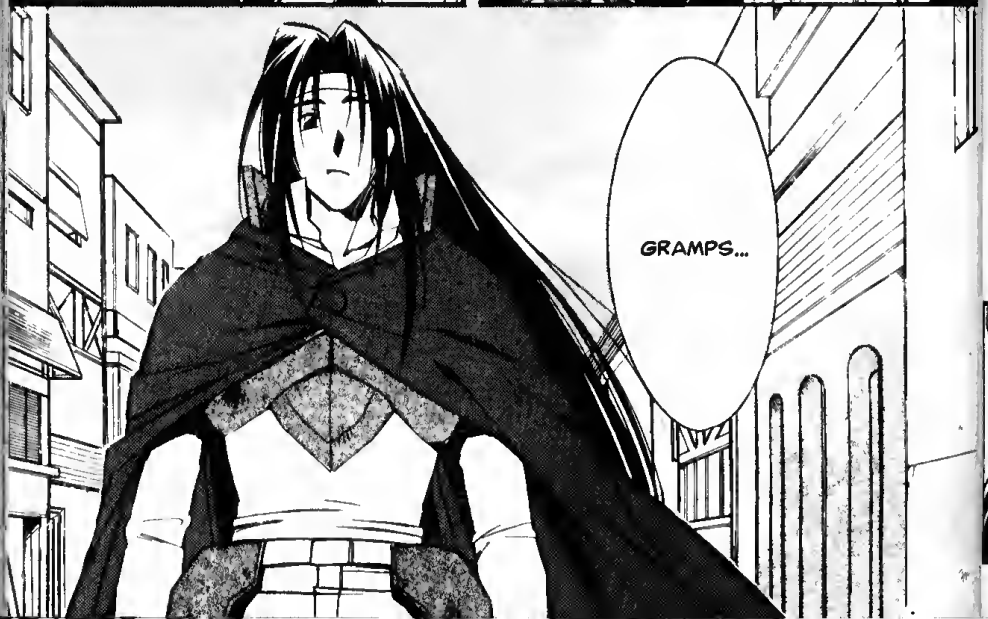
EH?
WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG WITH ME?
あぁ〜ん
HMM?
TAP
TAP

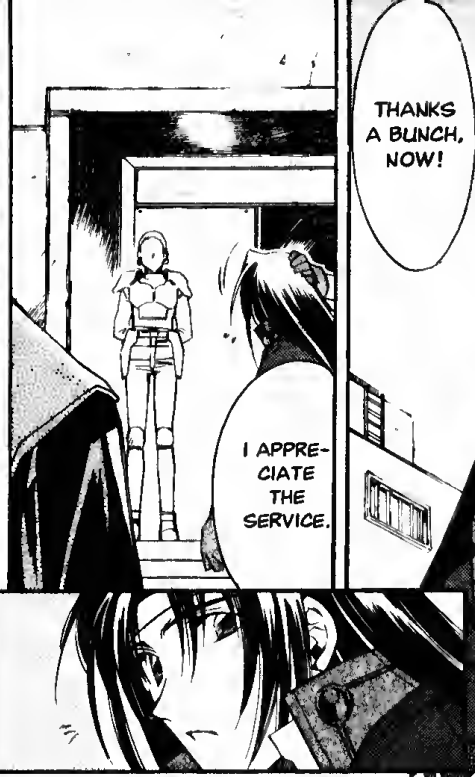
LET'S GO...
ALL'S WELL...
THAT ENDS WELL!
HA HA
HA HA
HOLD ON, YOU.
PAT!

EITHER WAY, SHE'S DEFINITELY A FOLLOWER OF THE WAR GOD.
IS SHE A PRIESTESS, THEN? OR JUST ONE OF THE FAITHFUL?
A HIRED SWORD, PERHAPS?
THAT BIG ONE SEEMED LIKE SHE'D SEEN HER SHARE OF BATTLES.
THE PESKY LITTLE ONE WAS PRETTY NIMBLE. SHE ALSO SEEMED LIKE SHE'D SEEN COMBAT.
HMM. THAT INSIGNIA ON HER BREAST...
WAS THE SYMBOL OF THE WAR GOD, MYLEE.
PEOPLE WHO TRAVEL ACROSS THE CONTINENT OF ALECRAST,
EXPLORING RUINS AND FINDING TREASURES.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THEY'RE A PRETTY STRANGE TRIO.
I WONDER IF THEY'RE ADVENTURERS,
HEH HEH HEH.
I WONDER IF MY GETTIN' ARRESTED MEANS THAT...
IT WAS NICE MEETIN' THEM UP CLOSE AND ALL!
HEH!
THOSE THREE WERE ABLE TO GET AWAY.

I DON'T THINK YOU COULD POSSIBLY BRING GREATER DISGRACE TO MY NAME!!
NAG
NAG
NAG
NAG
AND HERE'S THE SON OF CARWESS FOR YOU: A PATHETIC DRUNK WHO IGNORES HIS STUDIES...
AND BRAWLS HIS WAY FROM TAVERN TO TAVERN!
AW, MAN!
HUFF


JUST MAKE SURE YOU COME HOME TONIGHT.
DON'T YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR LIFE? LIKE BE AN ADVENTURER?


GRAMPS...


THANKS A BUNCH, NOW!
I APPRECIATE THE SERVICE.

KONG KONG
I'M FREE!
woo-hoo!

HE JUST SAYS HIS NAME AND I'M OUT, NO QUESTIONS ASKED...
WELL, THAT'S CARWESS THE COURT MAGE FOR YA!
NOD NOD
DONK!
IDIOT!

Louie...
RRRUMBLE
CARWESS!

DOESN'T BEING A MEMBER MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT EXACTLY EASY TO GET INTO THE SORCERERS' GUILD.
YEAH...
KINDA.
HEARD YOU GOT INTO IT AGAIN YESTERDAY.
GLG GLG
THK
NICE LITTLE ASS YA GOT THERE, TOOTS!
OH MY!
LOUIE. YOU'RE SUCH A TEASE!
MWAHAHA! JUST BEAUTIFUL!
HE'S ONE OF THE GREATEST WIZARDS ON THE CONTINENT.
THE ONLY REASON I'M IN IT IS BECAUSE MY FOSTER FATHER, CARWESS, IS THE GUILD MASTER. AFTER ALL, NOT ONLY IS HE HEAD OF OHFUN'S SORCERERS' GUILD...
HEY, LOUIE!
HE'S SO DEAD...
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS HANGING AROUND PLACES LIKE THIS.
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM TWO YEARS BEHIND MY CLASSMATES. A FLUNKEY.
HEY, POPS.
LONG TIME, NO SEE...

I MUST BE A LITTLE DRUNK OR SOME-THING.
YEAH.
YOU SURE ARE CHATTY TODAY.
HM
RIGHT...
WELL, TAKE IT EASY.

I ALWAYS END UP USING MUSCLE BEFORE MAGIC.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE **BODY** OF A SORCERER.
NAH, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR IT!
BESIDES... THE WHOLE THING JUST SUCKS.
.....

SIGH
DON'T YOU WANT TO DO **SOMETHING** WITH YOUR LIFE? LIKE BE AN **ADVENTURER**?
AN ADVENTURER, HUH?

CREAK
MY WHOLE LIFE'S ALREADY BEEN **PLANNED** FOR ME. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WHAT I'M TOLD.
THAT'S NO KINDA LIFE AT ALL.

あ～あ
AH, MAN.
IF ONLY SOMEONE WOULD OFFER TO JOIN UP WITH ME...
rMPh
WELL, I THINK I'VE HAD MY FILL.
I'LL PROBABLY GET AN EARFUL FROM GRAMPS WHEN I GET BACK.
YOU'RE THOSE THREE GIRLS FROM YESTERDAY.
WHOA, THIS IS HOW THEY PAY ME BACK?!

EN GARDE!
I'M IN FOR IT NOW!!

H... HOLD ON A SEC!

spring
dash
SCUFF

YOU'RE A MEMBER OF OHFUN'S SORCERERS' GUILD, AND ADOPTED SON OF THE ARCHMAGE, CARWESS...
YOU'RE LOUIE, AREN'T YOU?
I WISH I COULD FINISH YOU OFF...
YEAH, BUT NOW WE CAN'T!
HUH?
YOU ARE THE HERO WE SEEK.
THIS DAY, WE HAVE RECEIVED THE REVELATION FROM OUR GOD THAT...
THOUGH I AM LOATHE TO SAY IT...

Crash
THMP
SKRING
...?
S-CHK
HM?

FURTHERMORE, I...
AM BOUND TO SERVE YOU. THE HERO.
ME... A HERO ?!

I, MELISSA...
AND GENIE...
MY ASSOCIATES MERRILL...
ARE FROM THIS DAY FORTH...
TO SERVE AS YOUR COMPANIONS.

I'M SORRY.
YOU CAN CALL ME WHATEVER YOU LIKE...
BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING YOUR HERO.
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF A MAGICIAN BECOMING A HERO.
I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF. NEVERTHELESS... THE WORD OF GOD IS ABSOLUTE...
I CAN ONLY OBEY.

ADVENTURE 2
SUDDENLY—AN ADVENTURER!

ADVENTURE 2
SUDDENLY–AN ADVENTURER!

ADVENTURER?!!
冒険者(ぼうけんしゃ)!!!!?
ADV-ADV-ADV...
ADVENTURE...

ADVENTURE !!
ADVENTURE !!!
ADVENTURE ♥
ADVENTURE ?

I'M GENIE.
YEAH, THAT'S ABOUT WHAT IT'D TAKE FOR SOMEONE TO HANG OUT WITH **YOUR** DUMB A- *MWMPH!*
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M A WARRIOR.
HMPH!
THAT'S MERRILL.
SHE'S A THIEF.

WELL, ACTUALLY, WE WERE LOOKING FOR A **FEMALE** SORCERER...
BUT THE GOD OF WAR, MYLEE, REVEALED TO US THAT MELISSA, THE WARRIOR-PRIESTESS HERE, HAS TO SERVE **YOU**.
SO IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE MUCH OF A SAY...

AM I THE ADVENTURER ?!!
HAS HE BEEN **SMOKING** SOME-THING?

HA HA HA HA はっはっはっは
I SHALL GRANT YOU THE HONOR OF BEING MY COMPANIONS!
はぁ… SIGH…

UM... ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
PLEASE. WILL YOU LET US BE YOUR COMPANIONS?

WHY YOU CONDESCENDING LITTLE—
IT IS A CONSIDERABLE REQUEST. STILL...
hmm
WHAT A DILEMMA.
ALL RIGHT, THEN!
IF YOU REALLY INSIST.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO "KILL TIME" BY LEARNING SWORDPLAY!
GET UP!
WHERE'D ALL YOUR FIGHT GO?
AUGHH!
CHOMP!

GEH.
WITH YOUR EYES...
SKRSH!
SLRSH!
THE SWORD IS NOT A CLUB! YOU HAVE TO LEARN THAT.
AND WITH YOUR WHOLE BODY!!
SKRSH!!

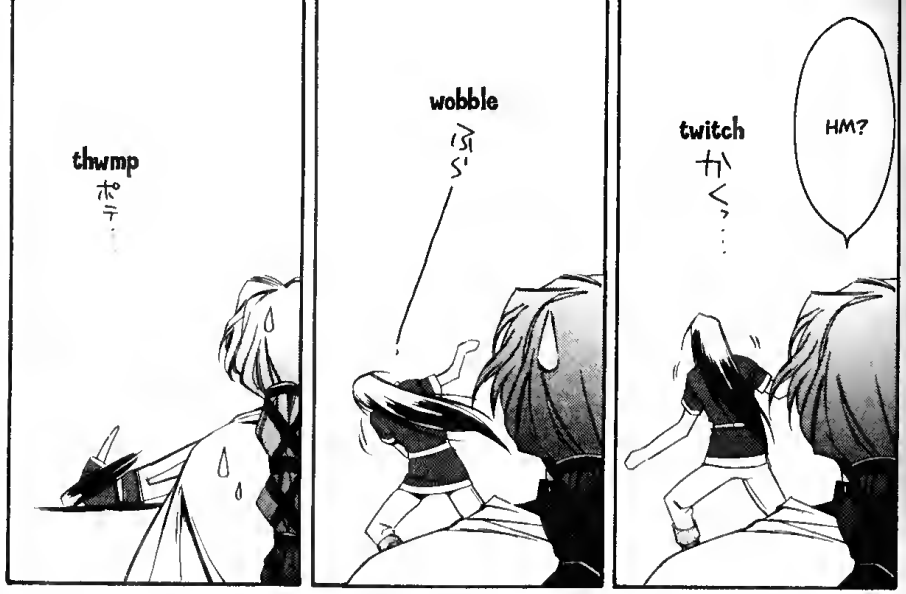
YOU JUST DO WHATEVER THE HELL YOU FEEL LIKE HUH?
BECAUSE YOU LET ME GET AWAY WITH IT.
FWP!
THAT WASN'T FAIR...
YOU USED YOUR LEG.
YOU...
KCHING!
SHUT THE HELL UP!!

COME ON, THEN!
DASH!
Ka-CHING!
YAAAH!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HA HA. YOU'RE A MESS.
HOWEVER...
I SHOULD CONGRATULATE YOU ON STILL BEING ABLE TO STAND WITH THOSE WOUNDS.
DAMN IT!
YOU'RE REALLY PISSING ME OFF...
FWOOSH
CHAK
THIS TIME I'LL SHOW YOU!!
HEH?

PUTTING ALL YOUR STRENGTH INTO A BLOW LIKE THAT WON'T–
WHAT?!
RNGH...
CRACK!
HE HIT ME AGAIN.

WHY CAN'T I DODGE THIS GUY'S PUNCHES?
THWUMP
HNGR.
IF IT'S OKAY TO USE YOUR LEGS,
IT'S OKAY TO USE YOUR FISTS TOO, RIGHT?
HA HA HA HA
SIGH
HE THINKS HE'S A BOXER...
O MYLEE, I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND HOW THIS SWORD-SWINGING BRUTE...
THIS INFINITELY UNRIGHTEOUS MAN WITH HIS DIRTY TRICKS...
THIS LOUT WHO'S LITTLE BETTER THAN A THIEF... COULD BE OUR HERO.


thwmp
wobble
twitch
HM?

OR MAYBE NOT.
O, MYLEE!
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THIS...

MY, THAT WAS REFRESHING. LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
GENIE.
IF YOU WERE TRYING TO SHOW ME UP AS PAYBACK FOR THE OTHER DAY... WELL, TOUGH LUCK!

THIS GUY...
MAYBE HE IS SPECIAL AFTER ALL.

WELL, HERE GOES!
I CAN'T BELIEVE A GUY LIKE THAT COULD BE OUR "HERO"!
I'VE GOTTA BE A COMPANION TO THAT NEANDERTHAL?!
AUCTIONING OFF INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNEXPLORED RUINS...
WHAT A CREEP!
DAMMIT! THAT DAMN INFORM-ANT...
I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE HIDEOUT AND SEE WHAT MELISSA...
HUH?
CHK CHK
SCUFF SCUFF
TOTTER TOTTER
IT'S HIM...
I'LL JUST FOLLOW HIM AND REPORT BACK TO MELISSA!
SKT SKT...
GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG
AHHH, THAT'S THE GOOD STUFF!

LEAVE ME ALONE, YOU IDIOT!
HUH?!
PAT
THE GUY'S A WALKING DISASTER.
I'VE GOTTA TELL MELISSA!
HEY GIRL, YOU ALL ALONE?
WHY DON'TCHA HAVE A DRINK WITH ME?
CRAP! LOUIE MIGHT NOTICE.

MURMUR
HEY BABY, YOU'RE NOT GONNA BRING ME DOWN TOO, ARE YOU?
MURMUR
PLEASE... PLEASE STOP.
C'MON, LOSE THE CLOAK, HONEY! LEMME SEE YER FACE.
WILL YOU PLEASE STOP?!
mumble
AAH, IT'S OKAY.
WHY DON'TCHA JUST...

C'MON NOW, DRINK UP!
HAH HA HA HA!
IT'S MY PARTY, SO ENJOY!
MRMMF!!

grab
HEY, YOU! WAIT!!
WHAT?!
GLUB
YOU HAVE A DRINK, TOO.
HUH?

GEEZ...
WHAT A JERK!

THAT GUY'S BECOME A REGULAR HERE RECENTLY. I HEARD THAT HIS GIRLFRIEND DUMPED HIM...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST BUTT THE HELL OUT?!
STUPID JERK...
WALTZING IN HERE LIKE YOU OWN THE PLACE...
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW?!
YOU REALLY ARE PATHETIC.
grab
SCOOCH
Crack!
THMP
THMP
THUD
HEY, BUB.
YOU'RE PUTTING A DAMPER ON MY CELEBRATION HERE.
C'MON
YOUR CELEBRATION?! CUT THE CRAP!

AN ADVENTURER.
THEN BY CHANCE, I FOUND SOME NEW FRIENDS...
AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE FOUND A WAY OUT OF THIS RUT.
I'M... NOT THE KIND OF PERSON YOU SEEM TO THINK I AM.
FWP
CAN'T... BREATHE.
WAUGH!
THUD
SOME-THING WAS MISSING FROM MY LIFE...
AND ALL THE BOOZE, ALL THE WOMEN, ALL THE FIGHTS COULDN'T FILL THE VOID.
BUT THAT'S GONNA CHANGE! 'CUZ NOW I'M...
BUT EVEN SO...
I DIDN'T GIVE UP ON THIS WORLD.
FOR ME, EVERY DAY WAS THE SAME THING. "TO HELL WITH IT ALL," I THOUGHT.

UM, THAT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S...
DRINK.
IT'S ON ME.
THAT IS...
IF YOU THINK THIS BOTTLE IS GONNA FIX THINGS FOR YOU.
"FIX THINGS"...?
GRR
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
BY THE WAY...
HEY THERE, HONEY!
♥
IF THAT OTHER GUY'S NO GOOD, HAVE A LITTLE DRINK WITH ME! I'LL SHOW YOU SOME FUN!
"SQUEEZE"
ガばあ-
HMM. MAYBE THERE'S MORE TO HIM THAN I THOUGHT...
SUIT YOURSELF.
HEH
POP

魔法戦士 リウイ

LOUIE the RUNE SOLDIER

紅炎のバスタード

ADVENTURE 3
STORM OF RELUCTANCE

A HERO IS...

STRONG...

NOBLE...

PROUD...

INTELLECTUAL, KINDHEARTED, AND MANLY.

SWORD IN HAND, HE IS LITHE AND SWIFT AS THE WIND THAT BLOWS ACROSS THE OPEN PLAINS...

魔法戦士
LOUIE the RUNE SOLDIER
リウイ
紅炎の
バスタード

夢(ゆめ)...!?
DREAM...?!

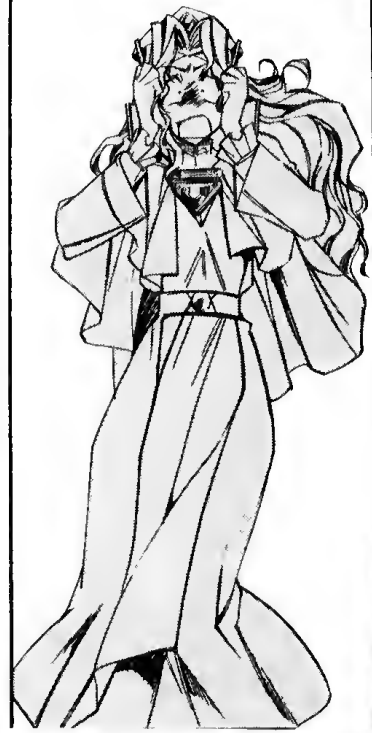
ADVENTURE 3
STORM OF RELUCTANCE
BUT...
IN REALITY, OUR "HERO" IS LIKE THIS.
MWAHAHAHA!
O, MYLEE! I'M REALLY...
"THIS"
BRING ME ANOTHER BOTTLE!
酒もってこーい
ははは

I RECEIVED DIVINE INSTRUCTION FROM MYLEE,
TO SERVE THE HERO...
I SEE NO HEROIC TRAITS IN HIM AT ALL!!
BUT OUR "HERO" ISN'T HERO-LIKE AT ALL!
HE'S A MAGIC-USER, BUT HE'S BUILT LIKE AN OGRE!
HE'S USED TO COMBAT...
BOOZE
BUT HE PREFERS BRAWLING WITH HIS FISTS, LIKE A BOXER! AND HE WON'T HESITATE TO PUNCH A GIRL IN THE FACE, EVEN THOUGH HE LIKES WOMEN! HE JUST DROWNS HIMSELF IN LIQUOR DAY IN AND DAY OUT. HE'S A THUG!
NOT SO SURE ABOUT THIS!!
MELISSA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH!
YES...
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL.
JENNY! I MEAN, HIGH PRIESTESS.

あぎゃ〜
NOOOO!
よせばよいのに
COME ON BABY
よせばよいのに
COME ON BABY

I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO SOUND PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME,
BUT...
IT WAS JUST AN EXAMPLE.
IF HE WANTS TO... YOU MEAN, I...?
NOOO
THE SOUL
DEAD
UH...

HAVE HIS WAY?!



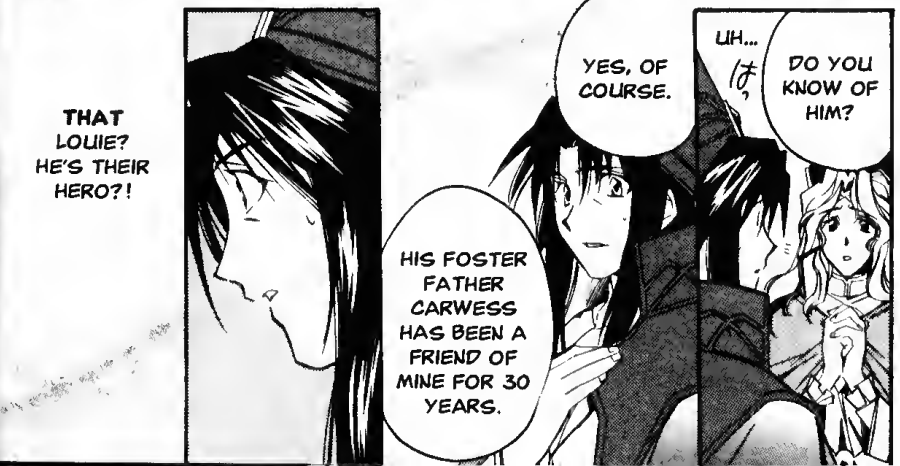
YOU MUST BE JOKING!!
IF THERE **WERE** A PERSON LIKE THAT, I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM.
THE WORD OF GOD IS ABSOLUTE, CORRECT?
AND AS A FOLLOWER OF MYLEE, IF HIS WILL DICTATES...
YOU SHOULD EVEN BE PREPARED TO LET THAT SORCERER **HAVE HIS WAY** WITH YOU, IF NEED BE...

TALK ABOUT HEROES WHO ARE INTO WOMEN AND LIQUOR!
EVEN THOUGH HE AND QUEEN MELEDI BUILT THE KINGDOM OF OHFUN TOGETHER, IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO CHANGE HIS PHILANDERING WAYS...
NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY WOMEN HE SLEPT WITH!
THE ILLEGITIMATE PRINCE WAS ABLE TO GET BY, THANKS TO THE LOVE AND EFFORTS OF QUEEN MELEDI.
IT WAS SURELY A TESTAMENT TO THE MIRACLE OF LOVE...
OH, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO REMEMBER...
思い出したくない。。。
RIJARL IS NOT THE MAN YOU THINK HE IS!
OH, THE THINGS HE USED TO DO...

HUH?
A... "TRUE" HERO?
I WAS HOPING TO BE LIKE YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY.
I WANTED TO SERVE A TRUE HERO!
YOU MEAN LIKE RIJARL?
YES!
THE MAN WHO EARNED THE NAME "DRAGONSLAYER" BY FELLING THE EVIL WYRM, CRISH. I'VE HEARD HE IS THE GREATEST WARRIOR IN ALL OF ALECRAST!
THE MAN YOU AND LORD CARWESS SERVED- A SIMPLE ADVENTURER WHO WOULD ONE DAY BECOME THE KING OF OHFUN.
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS INDEED TRUE, BUT...
YES, WELL...

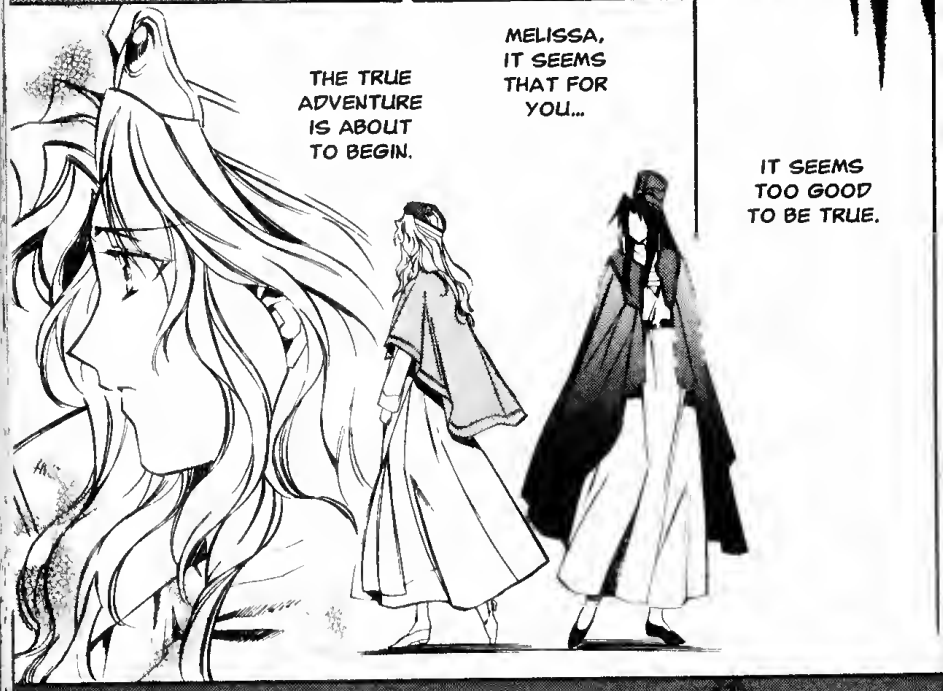
MELISSA...
Y... YES. I'M FINE.
heh heh heh heh
YOUR EXCELLENCY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
IF IT IS TRULY THE WILL OF MYLEE, YOU WILL NOT LOSE YOUR WAY.
SWISH
TAKE HEART.
I BELIEVE IN YOU AND WILL OFFER WHAT SUPPORT I'M ABLE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS.
DO YOU HAVE FAITH IN MYLEE?
IN THE WORDS HE SPOKE TO YOU?
I HEARD OUR GOD'S VOICE CLEARLY-
THE CLEAREST IT'S BEEN SINCE FIRST I HEARD IT.
YES.
THE NIGHT I MET THE SORCERER, I OFFERED A PRAYER TO MYLEE.
BY THE WAY...
I STILL HAVEN'T ASKED YOU HIS NAME.
PLEASE BRING YOUR SORCERER HERE TO THE TEMPLE SOMEDAY.
IF WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS TO MYLEE, PERHAPS THE HERO WITHIN HIM WILL AWAKEN.

OH.
HIS NAME IS LOUIE.
DID YOU SAY... LOUIE?


THAT LOUIE? HE'S THEIR HERO?!
YES, OF COURSE.
UH... DO YOU KNOW OF HIM?
HIS FOSTER FATHER CARWESS HAS BEEN A FRIEND OF MINE FOR 30 YEARS.

IF THAT IS ALL, THEN I SHALL EXCUSE MYSELF.
YES, OF COURSE.

これが運命というものなの…?
COULD THIS BE FATE?


MELISSA, IT SEEMS THAT FOR YOU...
THE TRUE ADVENTURE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WENT WELL!
I GOT SOME DETAILS FROM OUR INFORMANT ABOUT THOSE UNEXPLORED RUINS.
STILL...
WHAT IS IT?
WELL, I HEARD SOMETHING THAT WASN'T SO COOL.
ABOUT HIM.
YOU MEAN LOUIE?
YEAH.
I HEARD HE'S GOT A PRETTY BAD REPUTATION IN THIS TOWN...
WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL. SOME PEOPLE HAVE REALLY GOT IT OUT FOR HIM.
WHAT'S WITH THOSE GUYS, ANYWAY?
HIC
ヒック
DAMN IT ALL!!
TONK
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THIS.
WHAT A BIG PAIN IN THE BUTT.
I AGREE.
I'M SORRY
ごめんなさい…
BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
YEAH, I KNOW.
DAMN!
WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IN AND TELL HIM WE'RE GOING ON THE QUEST.
はあ
SIGH:

WELL SORRY, BUT...
THIS IS WHAT I SETTLE THINGS WITH!

UM, EXCUSE ME...
HMM?
YOU'RE LOUIE, AREN'T YOU?

AND MELISSA, SHE'S ALL, "Oh, I'm not so sure about this!"
GENIE'S ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOME WAY TO KICK THE CRAP OUTTA ME...
BLEH
MERRILL'S ALWAYS BITCHING OR SCREAMING ABOUT SOMETHING...

SWIG
SEEMS LIKE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, THEY ALL GOT A HEALTHY DISGUST FOR MEN.

BWEH
STILL...
AT LEAST I GET TO GO ON AN ADVENTURE.
HEH
MAYBE THOSE THREE...
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE ME USE MY MAGIC.

HM?
THEY'RE ADVENTURERS TOO, RIGHT?
WHA...? WHO'RE THOSE GUYS HE'S WITH?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SO?

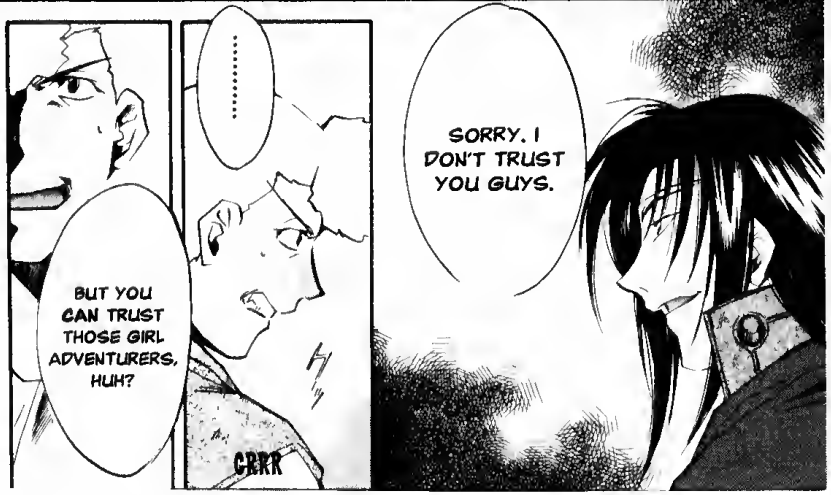
jingle
WE JUST WANNA TALK TO YOU FOR A BIT.
I DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING...
THAT WOULDN'T INTEREST YOU...
チラッ GLANCE
I DON'T HANG WITH GUYS, YOU KNOW.
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?
NOW, NOW DON'T GET ALL RILED UP.
OH.
THERE HE IS!
I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.
UM...

HUH?
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?
SO ANY-HOW, LOUIE...
I KNEW IT! THEY'RE TRYING TO RECRUIT HIM!
YOU WANT ME TO COME ON AN ADVENTURE WITH YOU?
BESIDES, THOSE THREE GIRL ADVENTURERS AREN'T EXACTLY EASY TO DEAL WITH, RIGHT?
I THINK IT WOULD BE AN INCREDIBLY ENJOYABLE ADVENTURE, FOR ALL OF US!
IF YOU JOIN UP...
SURE, SURE. BUT FIRST...
START TALKING.
GLP
HOW ABOUT A DRINK?
SAKÉ?!
GLUG-LUG-LUG...
GLAD YOU LIKE IT.
AHHHH
MAN THAT'S GOOD!
SHH.
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE...
SURE.
CARE FOR MORE?

SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I APPRECIATE THE OFFER...
CERTAINLY!
HEY, BRING OUT THE YOU-KNOW-WHAT.
WHOA!
K-CHK
PLEASE, TAKE THIS...
AS A TOKEN OF OUR FRIENDSHIP.
SWEET!
HUH?
SNAP
AND I GLADLY ACCEPT...
THIS! AND THIS!

FWISH
YOU SON OF A-!
YOU'RE DEAD!!
KA-WHUMP
SMSH
FWP
WHOA WHOA WHOA!
STOP!
SEE YA!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
HEY, I NEVER SAID I'D JOIN YOU.
YOU...
YOU JUST GAVE ME THESE, SO I'M TAKING 'EM.
GET A CLUE!

MY FOSTER DAD, CARWESS, IS THE HEAD OF THE SORCERERS' GUILD.
SO IF I JOIN UP WITH YOU GUYS...
IT'LL BOOST YOUR OWN REPUTATIONS.
THAT'S HOW YOU WERE PLANNING TO USE ME, RIGHT?


.....
BUT YOU CAN TRUST THOSE GIRL ADVENTURERS, HUH?
GRRR
SORRY. I DON'T TRUST YOU GUYS.

IT'S MY NAME YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN, ISN'T IT?

OUCH. DAMN...

THAT AIN'T FAIR!

LIKE COMING AT ME WITH A KNIFE IS?

.....
IS THIS A JOKE?
パタン
K-CHT
SEE YA!
THANKS FOR THE MONEY AND THE SAKÉ.
I'LL JUST BE TAKING THIS!
SMACK!
HE TOOK THE MONEY! NOW WHAT THE HELL DO WE DO?!
YOU IDIOT! THAT WAS A STUPID-ASS PLAN!
THWAP
HI!
SWSH
HELPED HIMSELF TO THE REST.
I KNEW IT'D BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
HEH
YOU THREE.

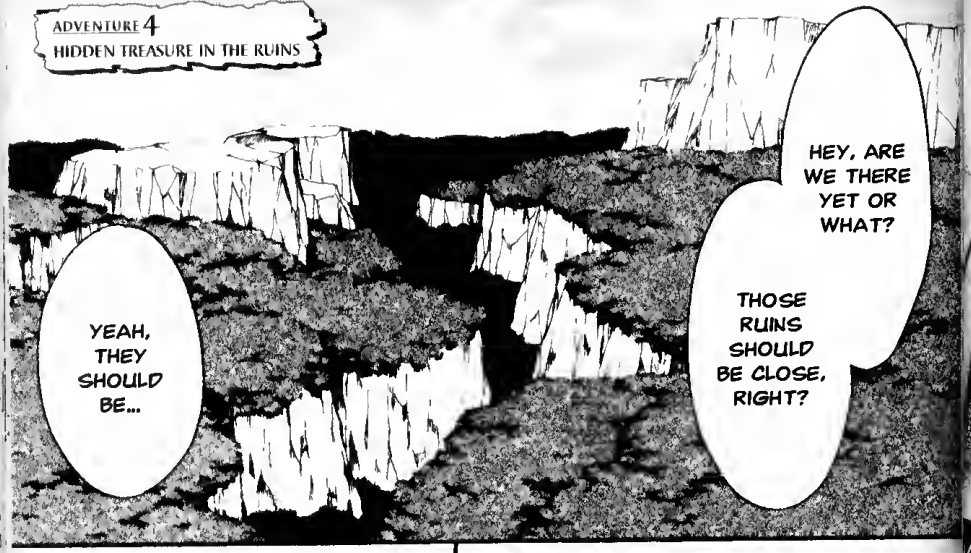
A HECK OF A LOT MORE THAN YOU!
THAT MAKES 'EM PEOPLE I CAN TRUST.
THEY STRAIGHT UP ASKED ME TO BE THEIR COMPANION.
THEY NEVER HAVE ANYTHING NICE TO SAY ABOUT ME, BUT DESPITE THAT...

ALL RIGHT !!
WE'RE GOING ON AN ADVENTURE!!
RELAX, YOU BIG LUG!

WE GOT SOME INFORMATION ON THE RUINS.

SO YOU SHOULD START MAKING PREPARATIONS.

WE SET OUT THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW...


HEY, ARE WE THERE YET OR WHAT?
THOSE RUINS SHOULD BE CLOSE, RIGHT?
YEAH, THEY SHOULD BE...

AHH. WELL, THE ADVENTURE'S FINALLY BEGUN, HASN'T IT?
YEAH, IT HAS...
HEH
I CAN HARDLY WAIT...
K-SHK
CUZ I'M **PREPARED** FOR THIS JOURNEY...

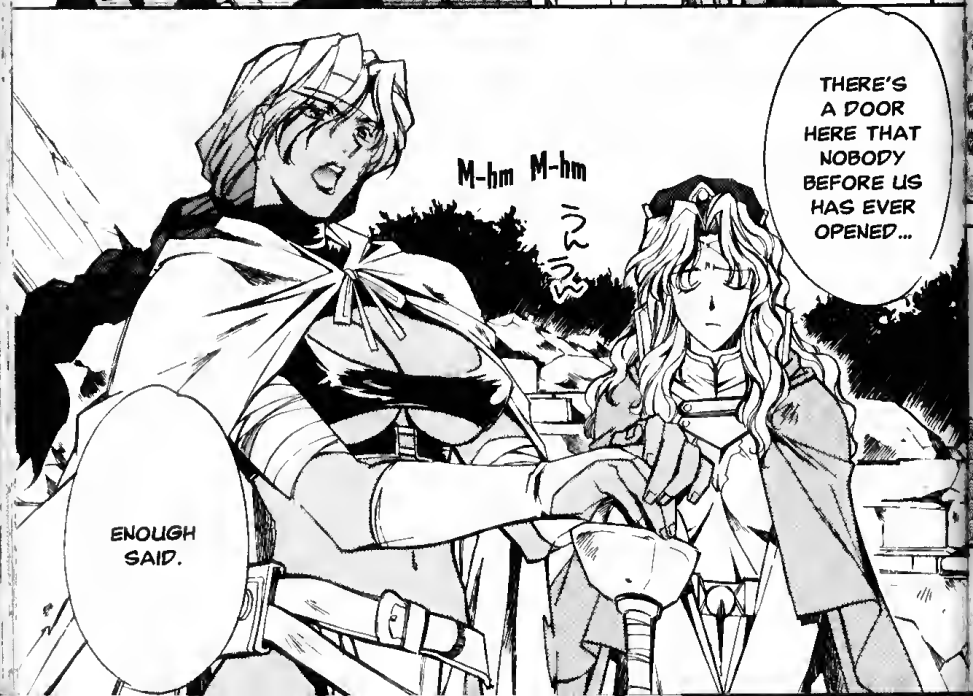
I HAVE NO PART TO PLAY IN THAT DESTINY. I'M NOTHING MORE THAN A SPECTATOR. AND THAT'S TOO BAD...
BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE A MOST EXCELLENT ADVENTURE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

LOOK, RIJARL...
IF LIFE DIDN'T HAVE THESE KINDS OF UPS AND DOWNS, WE'D NEVER KNOW WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE **ALIVE**, RIGHT?

WE'RE THERE, LOUIE.
おーい
C'MON!
FWOOSH!
AND FOR ANY SITUATION THAT MIGHT REQUIRE THIS!!
ADVENTURE 4
HIDDEN TREASURE IN THE RUINS

THERE'S TREASURE LEFT IN RUINS LIKE THIS?
I MEAN, IT'S ALL SO CLOSE TO THIS HIGHWAY. AND THE PLACE IS JUST FALLING APART...
HEY! THERE IT IS!
SOMETIMES WHEN RUINS ARE SO CLOSE TO CIVILIZATION, PEOPLE ASSUME THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO FIND.
LESSEE...
THUMP
HOP
SHE'S NIMBLE.
VEE!
UP WE GO!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT ON THE SURFACE.
WHOA
GEESH, HE'S SO NOISY.
WHAT?!
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP

HMM. I WONDER...
Heh!
staaare
MERRILL, YOU'RE A THIEF TOO, RIGHT?
DOES THIS MEAN...
ANYONE WHO'D TRUST A THIEF-FOR-HIRE HAS TO BE A DOOFUS.
WILL YOU TWO QUIT YOUR BABBLING?!
UH, ISN'T THAT CALLED FRAUD?


M-hm M-hm
THERE'S A DOOR HERE THAT NOBODY BEFORE US HAS EVER OPENED...
ENOUGH SAID.

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GUYS DID YOUR HOME-WORK ON THIS PLACE.
REALLY?

IN THESE PARTICU-LAR RUINS, THERE'S A DOOR THAT LEADS TO AN UNDER-GROUND LEVEL.
THAT DOOR IS BENEATH THIS RUBBLE!

SOME THIEVES HE'D HIRED FOUND THIS HIDDEN DOOR, BUT THEY NEVER TOLD THE ADVENTURER ABOUT IT. INSTEAD...
THE STORY GOES, AN ADVENTURER CAME HERE TO TAKE CARE OF A GHOST THAT HAD BEEN HAUNTING THE RUINS.

HUUUH?!
はぁ?!
THEY SOLD THE SECRET TO AN INFORMANT AT A SUPER HIGH PRICE.

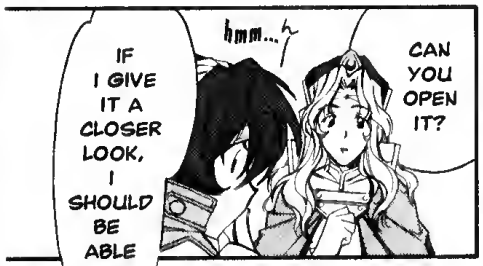
I WAS ABLE TO GET A LOT OF THAT STUFF OUTTA THE WAY. BUT...
THESE LAST FEW ARE HUGE.
PHEW. ALMOST DONE.
KA-TUNK
clench
Vmmm
I GUESS I'LL USE THIS.
.....

WELL, I DON'T REALLY MIND DOING PHYSICAL STUFF, BUT...
WHAT, YOU MEAN ON MY OWN?
YES!
ABSOLUTELY!
GENIE'S RIGHT!
LET'S GET THAT THING OPEN!
SMILE
IN THAT CASE...
PLEASE DO A GOOD JOB GETTING THAT RUBBLE CLEARED AWAY!
GEESH
YOU COULD AT LEAST GIVE ME A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT...
MELISSA, PEEL ANOTHER APPLE, OKAY?
OKAY, OKAY

I GET IT...
IT'S A "DECREASE WEIGHT" SPELL.
MELISSA!!
HE DID IT!
I GUESS OUR SORCERER CAN USE SOME MAGIC, HUH?
MWA HA HA HA! WELL YEAH, OF COURSE I CAN!!
IS "SOME" ENOUGH?
WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A SORCERER IF HE COULDN'T...
GENIE...
HEADS UP!!
pip
ぴょ
WHA...
HUH?
MY TURN.
THE GAL'S AN EX-MERC. I GUESS BEING A MAN OR WOMAN MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.
UH... HEH HEH.
WHOA, HOLD ON! THIS IS A MAN'S JOB.
glare

HEY, MELISSA ...
I SUPPOSE...
THEY'RE KIND OF ALIKE, HUH?
HM?
"ALIKE"? YOU MEAN, PHYSICALLY?
THERE'S THAT, YEAH... BUT THEIR PERSONALITIES TOO, RIGHT?
RIGHT?
CRUNCH
WELL, LET'S DO IT TOGETHER, THEN. IT'LL BE QUICKER THAT WAY...
HMPH.
ba-thunk
ka-krunk

DONE.


hmm...
CAN YOU OPEN IT?
IF I GIVE IT A CLOSER LOOK, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO.

GLANCE

Heh heh
BUT NOW THAT WE'VE GOT A REAL SORCERER WITH US, I DON'T SUPPOSE HE'D MIND OPENING IT?
WHAT?!

IT'S HERE.

KA-KRUNK
LAST ONE!
Okay!
STEP ASIDE! YOU REEK OF SWEAT!
'THE HECK'S YOUR PROBLEM?
PHEW!
THAT'S IT, HUH?
TA-DA!

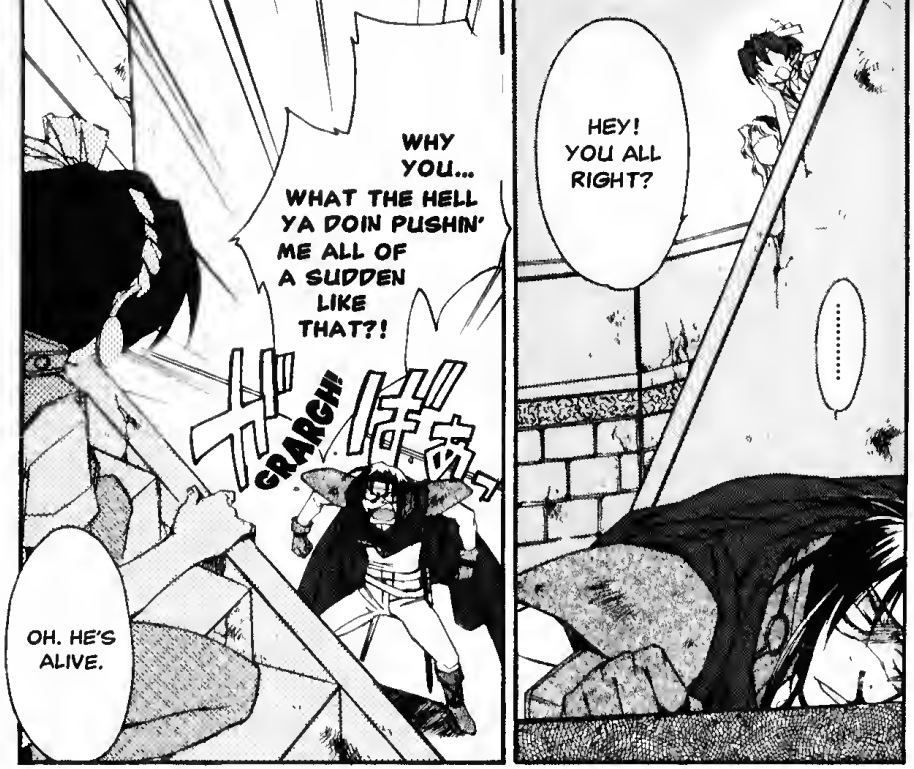
SHE'LL POUR THAT WATER ON THE GROUND, AND THEN LOOK FOR THE CRACKS THAT IT SEEPS INTO.
WHAT'S SHE DOING NOW?

scrape

HMM...
brush brush

GRIN
BWOOF
LET'S GO.
OKAY! LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF TREASURES AWAIT!
YAY!
IT OPENED!
THIS IS ABOUT ALL THE MAGIC I'M GOOD FOR TODAY.
I'M SURE HE COULD JUST CAST AN "UNLOCK" SPELL AND OPEN IT RIGHT UP.
SIGH
YOU'RE A REAL SLAVE DRIVER, YOU KNOW THAT? STANDING THERE GRINNING LIKE A DEVIL STRAIGHT OUT OF HELL...
GRIP
CASTING SPELLS CAN GET TIRING, YOU KNOW.
RRRUMBLE

NOW THEN LOUIE, YOU JUST TRY NOT TO GET IN THE WAY.
GEESH
WELL EXCUSE ME!
PAT
PAT
MELISSA'S MAGIC WOULD PROBABLY WORK BEST, HUH?
YEAH...
THERE ARE PROBABLY SOME "WHITE MAGIC" SPELLS THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF THE UNDEAD, RIGHT?
YES...
HEY, LOOK!
A DOOR...
HEY, DON'T LOOK AT ME!
THEY'RE NOT LISTENING!
HUH?
SOMETHING SMELLS...
THE ROTTEN STENCH OF BEASTS.
NO, IT'S NOT THAT. THIS IS...
YEAH, LIKE THE SMELL OF OLD BOOKS OR SOME-THING?
ARE YOU SURE IT ISN'T JUST DUST OR MOLD?
IF OUR ENEMIES TURN OUT TO BE THE DEAD, IT WON'T BE YOUR FIGHT ANYWAY.
SO SHUT UP!
OH, YEAH! NOW MY BLOOD'S PUMPIN!
YOU KNOW ABOUT ZOMBIES, RIGHT? I HEARD THAT LONG AGO, THERE WAS A NECROMANCER IN THE KINGDOM WHO WAS REALLY GOOD AT CONTROLLING THE UNDEAD.
THESE RUINS COULDN'T BE HIS MANSION, COULD THEY?


HEY! YOU ALL RIGHT?
.....
WHY YOU... WHAT THE HELL YA DOIN PUSHIN' ME ALL OF A SUDDEN LIKE THAT?!
GRARGH!
OH. HE'S ALIVE.

OF COURSE WE CAN'T BE SURE THERE IS A TREASURE...
NOT TO MENTION ALL THE TREAS-URE!

ANY MONSTERS WE MIGHT RUN INTO ARE PROBABLY BEYOND THAT DOOR.

HELLO? ANYBODY IN THERE?!
SHOVE

treasure
bfweh
?

SNICKER
BWAHAHAHA!
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT FOR SPACING OUT, YOU SIMP!
WHAT A MORON!

B.A-THUMP
HE FELL...

WAAAUGH!

WELL NOW,
LOOK WHAT I FOUND! MOUNTAINS OF GOLD AND SILVER AND GEMS!!
ONCE I FIND THAT TREASURE...

はははは
HA-HA-HA-HA
OHHH, LOUIE. JUST WHAT WE'D EXPECT OF MYLEE'S HERO...

HM?
I-REEK
SOMETHIN' STINKS..
BWAM
FORTUNE SMILES UPON ME!
MWAHAHA! YES, INDEED!

HM?

RIGHT ON!
C'MON, QUIT FOOLING AROUND. LET'S CHECK OUT THAT DOOR.

DAMN BRAT, MAKING A MONKEY OUTTA ME...
OUCH

IT MUST LEAD TO THE TREASURE!
YEAH, I'VE GOTTA HUNCH.

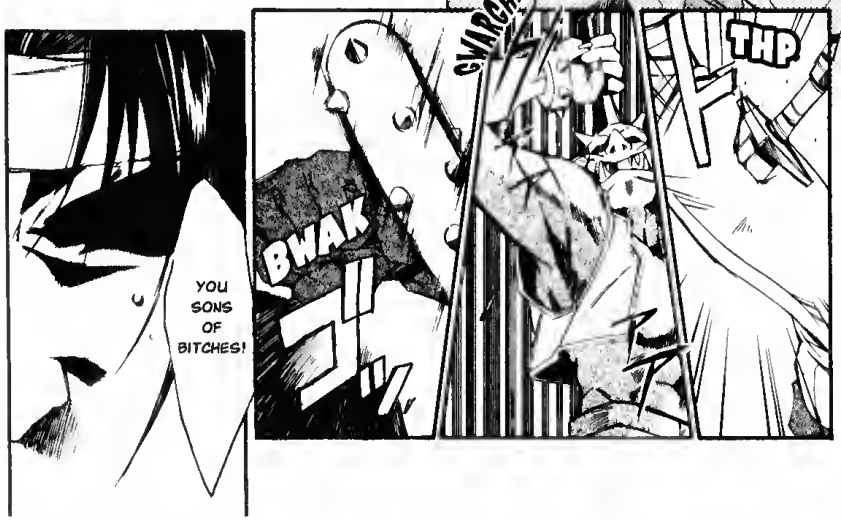
I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS DOOR MIGHT BE "IT."
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S A DOOR DOING HERE?

WAAA AAUGH!
FORTUNE AIN'T SMILING AT ALL!!

WHAT'S THAT?!

WHERE THE HECK DID THEY COME FROM?
GOBLINS!!
WH...
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
ALL I DID WAS OPEN A DOOR BEHIND THE STAIRS!

GRARR!
WAAUGH!!!
THWOK
UNGH.


THP
GWARGH!
BWAK
YOU SONS OF BITCHES!

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
GRRR
HERE COMES THE MAGIC!
crack!
SNAP

UH, DID HE JUST BREAK HIS MAGE'S STAFF?
.....
YUP.
BROKE IT GOOD...

HUH?

BWEHH!!
TIME FOR A BEATING!
COME ON, YOU STINKIN' DOGS!
DAMN...
FWP

魔法戦士 リウイ

LOUIE the RUNE SOLDIER

紅炎のバスタード

FUMM
ふむ…
THE RUINS TURNED OUT TO BE JUST A GOBLIN LAIR...
AND IT LOOKS LIKE LOUIE DIDN'T LEAVE A SINGLE ONE STANDING.
SO...
FWSHHH
FWSHHH
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
BUT NOW THAT HE BROKE HIS STAFF, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO CAST SPELLS ANYMORE, RIGHT?
HEH, HEH, ADVENTURES ROCK!
SIGH
はあ…

FOUR HUNDRED FIF...TEEN...

FOUR HUNDRED SIX...TEEN...

LOUIE, A SORCERER'S STAFF IS HIS LIFE, IN A SENSE...

AND YOU BROKE YOURS?

YEAH. I BROKE THE HELL OUT OF IT.

HUFF はぁ…

BY THE WAY, ILA...

魔法戦士リウイ
LOUIE the RUNE SOLDIER
紅炎のバスタード

現実(げんじつ)……
REALITY…

WHAT?
I THOUGHT I WAS **HELPING** YOU BUILD UP ALL THOSE MUSCLES.
WOULD YOU MIND GETTIN' OFF?!
ADVENTURE 5
ENTER: ILA

I'LL JUST GET SOMEONE TO MAKE A NEW ONE FOR ME.
HRMPH
YEAH, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
TMP!!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT YOUR STAFF?
YOU CAN'T USE ANY MAGIC WITHOUT THAT!
WHO, CARWESS?
HUH?
YOU DON'T GET IT AT ALL, DO YOU?
HE'LL JUST TELL ME TO BRING HIM SOME WOOD FROM AN OLD TREE.
NO BIG DEAL.

EVEN IF YOU ARE MY CLASSMATE AT THE GUILD, YOU AREN'T HELPING ME AT ALL.
LISTEN, YOU...
I SAID I'D BUY ANY MAGIC ITEMS YOU BROUGHT BACK AT A GOOD PRICE.
BUT WHAT DID YOU BRING? NOTHING! NOT A SINGLE THING.
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
CRIPES...
WHAT COULD I'VE DONE? THERE WAS NOTHING BUT GOBLINS IN THOSE RUINS.

THEY'RE IN THE FOREST OF TARTIOUS.

THE FOREST OF TARTIOUS?

GRRR
ITS NICK-NAME IS THE "FOREST OF BLOOD AND GUTS"...
AND IT'S HOME TO SPECTERS, HOBGOBLINS, AND OTHER TERRIFYING BEASTS. IT'S NOT A PLACE YOU CAN COME OUT OF IN ONE PIECE.

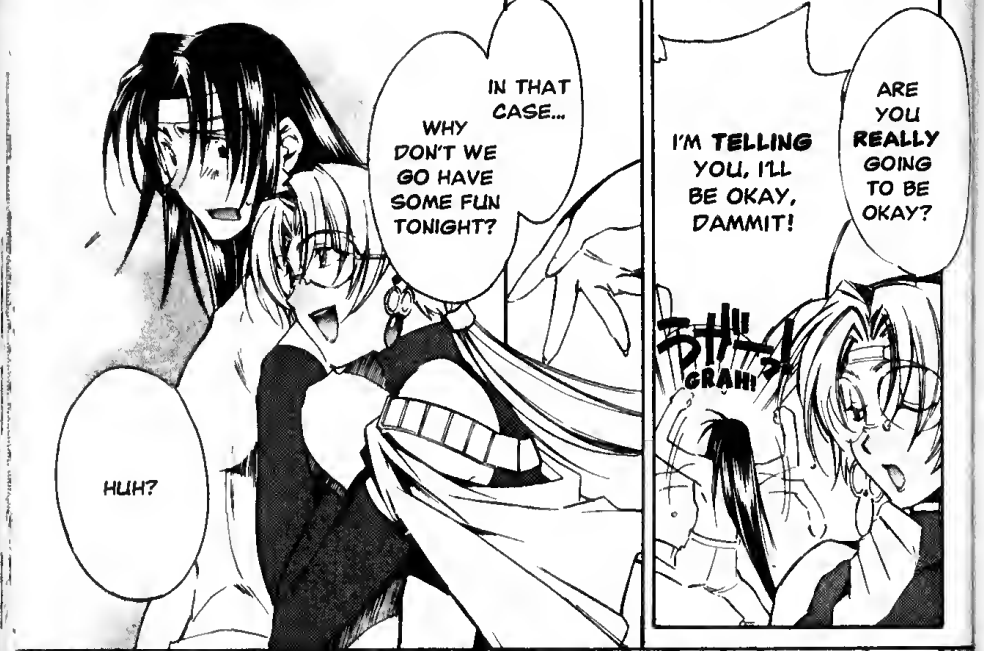
NO WONDER HE BUSTED MY CHOPS...

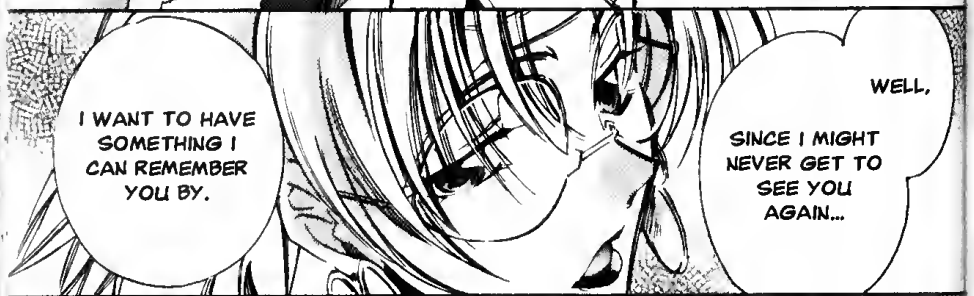
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH A THREE-DAY INCANTATIONAL CEREMONY!
KA-BONK
WHAT?!

TO MAKE A MAGE'S STAFF, YOU NEED WOOD FROM A FIVE HUNDRED YEAR-OLD EVERGREEN OAK.
KONK
WHAT?

AND I'LL TELL YOU, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND ANY 500 YEAR-OLD TREES AROUND HERE. IF THERE ARE ANY...

NATURALLY, ANY SORCERER'S GOING TO KNOW THAT.
OF COURSE, I HAPPEN TO BE PARTICULARLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE SUBJECT.


IN THAT CASE...
WHY DON'T WE GO HAVE SOME FUN TONIGHT?
HUH?
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BE OKAY?
I'M TELLING YOU, I'LL BE OKAY, DAMMIT!
GRAH!


I WANT TO HAVE SOMETHING I CAN REMEMBER YOU BY.
WELL, SINCE I MIGHT NEVER GET TO SEE YOU AGAIN...

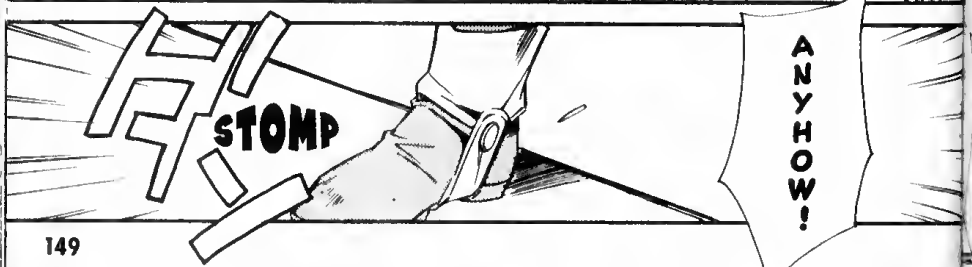
I MEANT, WE COULD GO OUT FOR A DRINK.
TSK, TSK, I'M JOKING.
D...DREAM ON!!

ADVENTURE TIME
WHAT'RE A FEW SPOOKS?
I'LL BASH THEIR HEADS IN!!
HA HA, I'M KIDDING. THIS TIME, WHY NOT USE YOUR SWORD LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO?
SIGH
AND END UP BREAKING ANOTHER STAFF, RIGHT?

YOU'RE GOING ALONE, THEN?
HEH
WHEN I BROKE MY STAFF, THEY TOTALLY WENT APESHIT ON ME.
NO WAY!
YOUR FRIENDS WILL GO WITH YOU, RIGHT?
THE HELL THEY WOULD!
きょぬ!!

HE SAID HE BOUGHT A NEW SWORD FOR THE JOURNEY...
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THE NITWIT COULD EVEN USE IT.
NOW WE'VE GOT A MAGIC USER WHO CAN'T USE HIS MAGIC...
AND THEN THAT IDIOT BROKE HIS MAGE'S STAFF...
WHAT THE HECK ARE WE GONNA DO?

YEAH, NO KIDDING.
NOTHING'S GONE RIGHT SINCE THAT GUY CAME ALONG!!


STOMP
ANYHOW!

うふ♥ HEE
UARGHH
DON'T YOU LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE GLASSES!
CLEAM
MY, MY. RELAX, THEY'RE NOT ENCHANTED. THEY'RE JUST AN ORDINARY PAIR OF GLASSES.
MWAHFRAFRAH!?

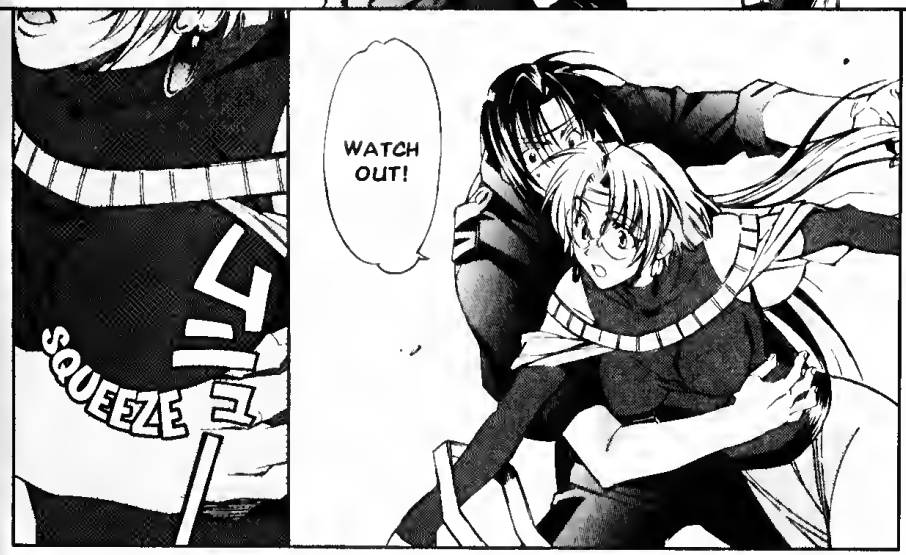
LEAVE ME ALONE.
STILL, YOU COULDN'T SAY NO TO ME, COULD YOU?
FOR GOD'S SAKE!!
SLAM
THAT SON OF A BITCH INFORMANT RIPPED US OFF!

ktnk
BUT NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT LOUIE'S BIRTH.
THERE'S NOT MUCH AN INFORMANT CAN'T FIND OUT...
WHAT THE INFORMANT TOLD ME TODAY... WAS KIND OF WEIRD.
HE'S A "SORCERER," BUT REALLY JUST A MUSCLEHEAD...
HE LOVES BOOZING AND BRAWLING...
AND EVEN THOUGH HE'S A "HERO," HE'S HOPELESS WITH A SWORD.
WHO...
WHO THE HECK IS THIS GUY?

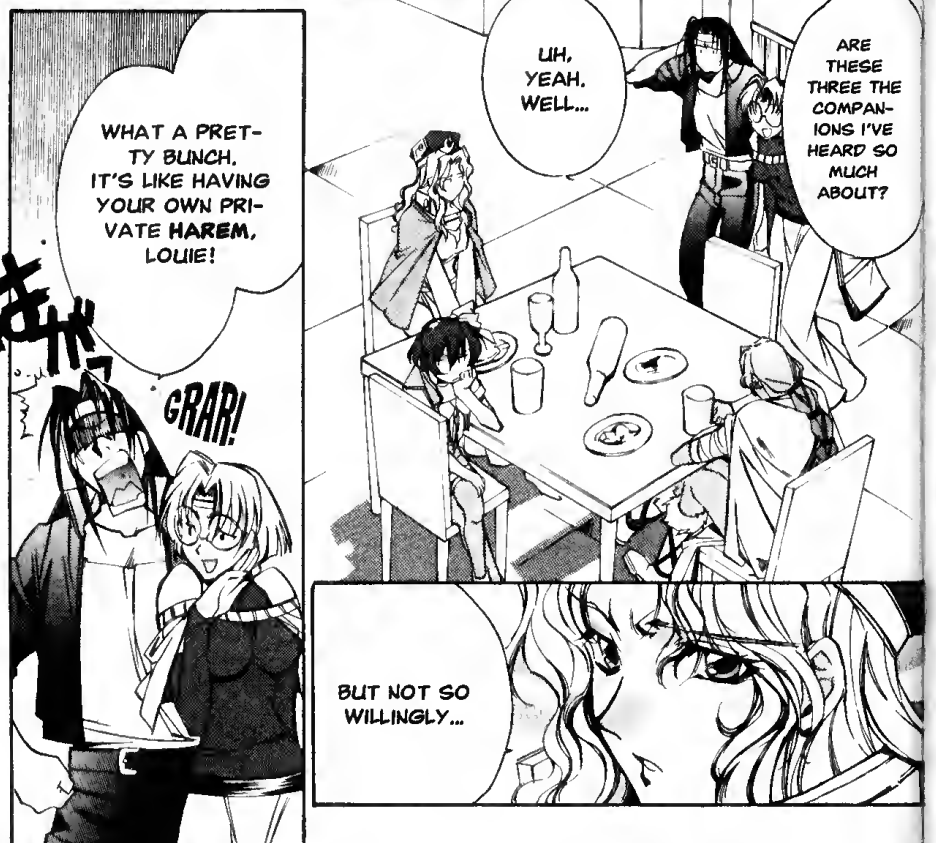
HEY! BRING US ANOTHER ALE!!
LET'S JUST GET HAMMERED AND FORGET ABOUT IT ALL!
RUCKUS!!
NOTE: Kids, don't do this at home.
GAH! AND HE THINKS IT'S ALL A BIG ADVENTURE!!
CLAMOR!
BUT ANYHOW...
AHHHH. MUCH BETTER!

GRAR!
WHY THANK YOU!
OHH...
DAMN ...
UH...
slip
!

AH!
LET'S GO TO THAT PUB OVER THERE!
SURE, WHATEVER. JUST QUIT HANGING ALL OVER ME!
COME ON, HURRY UP!
AH!
trip

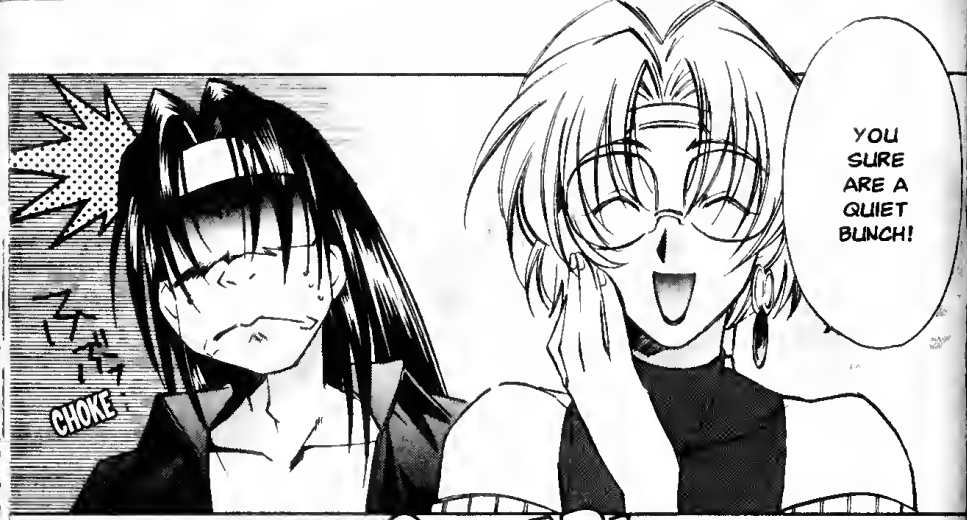

WATCH OUT!
SQUEEZE

TRUST ME, NOBODY WAS WORRIED!
LOUIE AND I ARE JUST CLASS-MATES.
OH MY! DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
tee-hee
OH, LOOKEE HERE. THE STAFF-BREAKER'S GOT A WOMAN NOW.
WELL, AREN'T YOU THE CAT'S PAJAMAS?


WHAT A PRET-TY BUNCH. IT'S LIKE HAVING YOUR OWN PRI-VATE HAREM, LOUIE!
GRAR!
UH, YEAH. WELL...
ARE THESE THREE THE COMPAN-IONS I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?
BUT NOT SO WILLINGLY...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
I MIGHT ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.

HI, THERE! MY NAME'S ILA!
BUST!
TRIM!
BUM!


YOU SURE ARE A QUIET BUNCH!
CHOKE

SNAP

OH, YEAH! ABOUT LOUIE'S STAFF...
Hm?
HE'LL HAVE TO GET WOOD FROM A VERY OLD TREE IN ORDER TO MAKE A NEW ONE.
SO HE'LL BE GOING... TO THE FOREST OF TARTIOUS!

ILA! LET'S GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!!
WHAT? BUT WHY?
WOOOOOO

I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURES!
SIT HERE.

OH, COME ON!
LET'S STAY HERE!
TUG!

silence

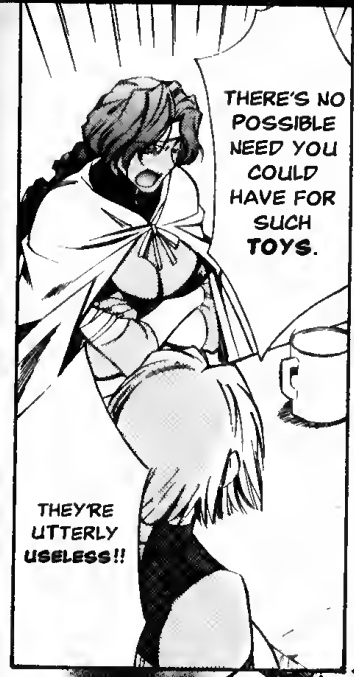
A WHISTLE, A ROD AND SOME CLOTH...
THESE!
IF YOU WEAR THIS AS A CLOAK, IT CAN MAKE YOU INVISIBLE.
AND SO YOU DON'T LOSE YOUR WAY, PLANT ONE OF THESE RODS IN THE GROUND, AND THE OTHER ROD WILL POINT TOWARDS IT, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.
SIGH
WOW. LOOKS USELESS.
BUT CAN IT CONTROL THE SPIRITS?
は? HUH?
IT SUMMONS SPIRITS!
AND THIS WHISTLE IS CALLED THE SPIRIT SUMMONER.

YES! AND HE'S GOING ALONE!
THE FOREST OF TARTIOUS?!
How mean...
ジェイ
AAH, HE'S DEAD MEAT.
IF HE DOESN'T RETURN FROM THAT FOREST...
THE CHURCH WOULD BE TROUBLED BY THAT!
THEN HE WON'T COME BACK ALIVE.
I HAVE SOME MAGIC ITEMS THAT'LL HELP HIM!
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR!

SNAP

LA-DEE-DAAH

ILA...
I'M MUCH BETTER WITH MAGIC, PLUS I HAVE THESE GLASSES.
THUNK!
OH, I KNOW! IF YOU LIKE, I'LL COME ALONG!
SCOOCH


THERE'S NO POSSIBLE NEED YOU COULD HAVE FOR SUCH TOYS.
THEY'RE UTTERLY USELESS!!

WHOA WHOA WHOA!!
NOPE! IT JUST SUMMONS THEM!

WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS JUNK?!
DUNNO. YOU COULD PROBABLY FIND SOME USE FOR THEM...

CLINT
OH, MY. DO YOU THINK SO?
I SHOULD THINK THEY'D BE CONSIDERABLY MORE USEFUL THAN SOME PEOPLE...

glug-glug glug
THIS IS NOT FUNNY!!
SLAM
THEY MUST REALLY BE CONFIDENT...
I THINK THEY'RE UNDERESTIMATING THE FOREST OF TARTIOUS.
I HOPE IT REALLY BURNS ME UP! THAT FLOOZY GOES ALONG ON THAT ADVENTURE AND DIES!!
IS THAT SHE THINKS SOME STINKING TOYS ARE BETTER THAN US...!!
THE PART THAT REALLY GETS ME...
IF YOU LIKE, WE COULD...
LADIES! IT'S A LONELY NIGHT OUT THERE. ANY O' YOU BABES NEED SOME MALE COMPANIONSHIP?
YO!
SMASH

OH MY
SMACK
I GOT IT!
IF YOU WANT US TO BE ALONE TOGETHER, JUST SAY SO.
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE ELSE...
HUH? WHY?
EXCUSE US.
YEAH. UM, I'M OUT OF HERE.
SILENCE
SITUATION: SUCKS!!

YUP!
SURE DO. ♥
HEY, HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN SO MANIPULATIVE?
YOU REALLY THINK THEY'LL FOLLOW US?
WHAT'S THIS?
HM?

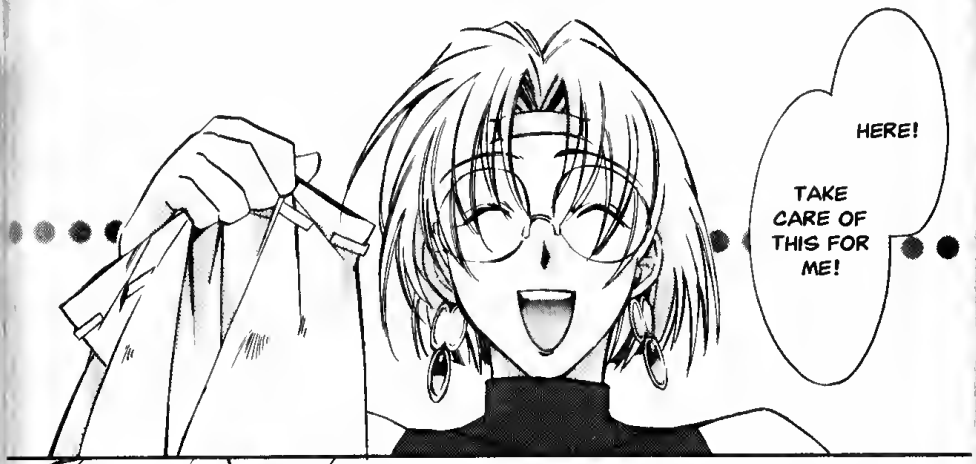
GLARE
UH...
FWACK!!
SNAP!
PISS OFF!!
GWAUGH!!
FWA-THUD
WHAT'D WE DO?!

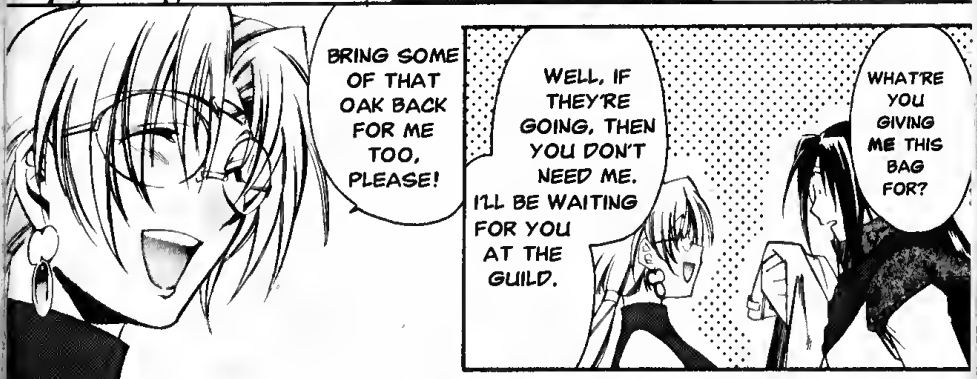
YEAH, IT'D BE A PAIN TO GO LOOKING FOR A NEW SORCERER.
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU...
WELL, I JUST CAN'T DENY MY CALLING.
YEAH, CAUSE THERE'S NO WAY YOU TWO COULD SURVIVE ON YOUR OWN.
ちらっ
GLANCE
WELL...
YEAH, THAT'S ALL FINE AND GOOD, BUT...
EH?
GREAT NEWS, HUH LOUIE?
WELL, THEN...

HA HA. WE KIND OF GOT INTO A SCUFFLE AFTER YOU LEFT.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS?
YO.
YEAH. ♥
A FIGHT?
ONCE THE DUST SETTLED, WE DECIDED TO COME ALONG WITH YOU.
SO...
はっ
WHA?!
grin grin grin
REALLY?

HEY, NO WORRIES, RIGHT? YOU GET TO GO WITH YOUR BUDDIES NOW, THANKS TO ME!
NOW I SEE!
I'VE BEEN HAD!!!

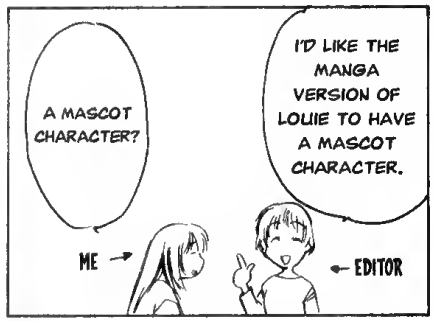
HEY!
おーい
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? LET'S GO!
SOUL
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2

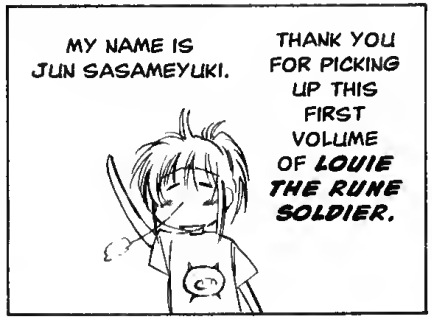

HERE!
TAKE CARE OF THIS FOR ME!

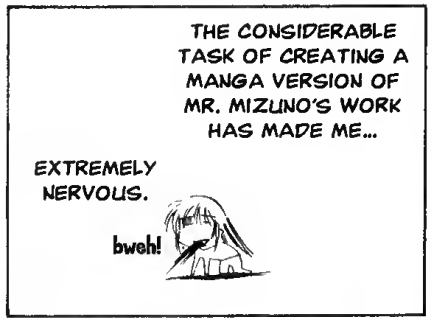

BRING SOME OF THAT OAK BACK FOR ME TOO, PLEASE!
WELL, IF THEY'RE GOING, THEN YOU DON'T NEED ME. I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE GUILD.
WHAT'RE YOU GIVING ME THIS BAG FOR?

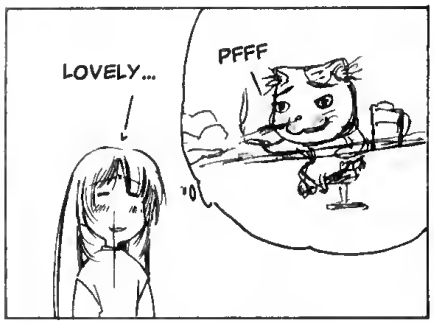
ILA, DON'T TELL ME THIS WAS ALL JUST...
COME BACK SAFE, NOW!

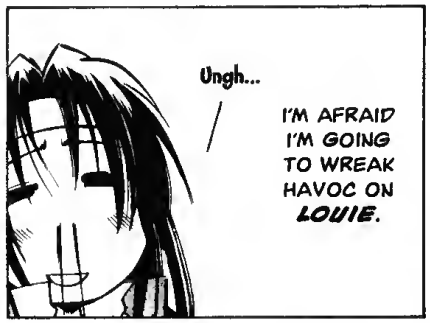
AFTERWORD ♡

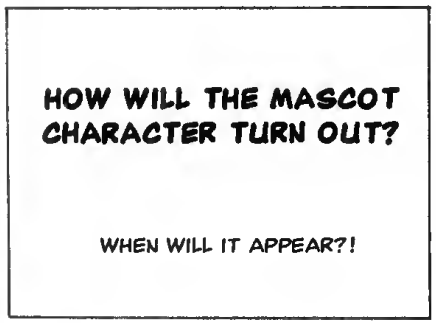


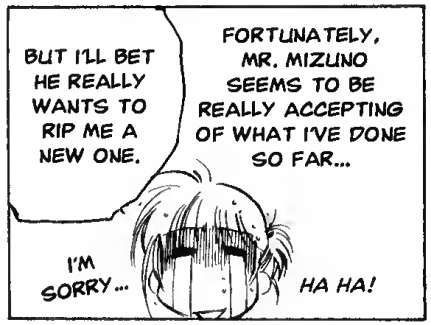











BUT I'LL BET HE REALLY WANTS TO RIP ME A NEW ONE.
FORTUNATELY, MR. MIZUNO SEEMS TO BE REALLY ACCEPTING OF WHAT I'VE DONE SO FAR...
I'M SORRY...
HA HA!

LET'S GO TO THE NEXT ADVENTURE!!

■SPECIAL THANKS■

AYA SASADA sama
SHINO OSATO sama
SATOKO MURAYAMA sama
SACHIKO SHIKAYA sama
KEI KIMIYA sama
DON sama

YOSHIDA sama

&……YOU!